GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1318
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2015
MDMS in Tamil Nadu
Marutharajaa Shri R.P.

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated to Tamil Nadu Government under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) during the last three years and the current year by the Government and the quantum of funds utilized by the State Government, year-wise;

(b) whether the State Government has followed the norms laid down by the Central Government while spending the funds and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is also aware of the sub-standard food served in Government Schools in the State; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the quality of food served under Mid-Day Meal Scheme in the State?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a): The year-wise details of funds allocated to Tamil Nadu and utilized by the Government of Tamil Nadu under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) during the last three years and the current year are as under:-

(Rs. in lakh)
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Year Allocation Utilization
2012-13 72604.49 45269.07
2013-14 49553.01 48470.17
2014-15 65073.94 63061.73
2015-16* 32161.87 23701.69
*upto 30th September, 2015

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(b): The State Government is implementing mid day meal scheme as per the MDM Guidelines. The State Government has made additional contribution from the state resources to provide nutritious meals to the children.

(c) & (d): Only one case of serving of sub-standard food was reported in the year 2013 in Cuddalore district, Tamil Nadu. As a result, the MDM organizer and cook of the MDM meal centre had been placed under suspension. The State Government also issued detailed instructions to their district level officers to take all precautionary measures and ensure that utmost care is taken and hygiene is maintained while preparing the meals in the Schools and child Welfare Centres.

Government of India has issued updated guidelines on quality, safety and hygiene for school level kitchens to all the States / UTs on 13thFebruary, 2015. These guidelines, inter alia, provide for instruction to schools to procure Agmark quality and branded items for preparation of mid day meals, tasting of meals by 2-3 adults members including at least one teacher before serving to children and to put in place a system of testing of food samples by accredited laboratories. Further, the MDM Rules 2015 provide for mandatory testing of food samples on a monthly basis by Government recognized laboratories to ensure that the meals meet with nutritional standards and quality

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